

Message Text

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63

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /014 W
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R 221519Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6776
USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, GB
SUBJ: FOREIGN BUYER PROGRAM - AFRICSPITAL

REF: LIBREVILLE 1102 AND 1296; USDOC 12022;
LIBREVILLE A-086, 12/17/74

1. BOURGIN CALLED ON EMBOFF AUGUST 21 WITH INFORMATION THAT GABONESE PRESIDENT OF AFRICSPITAL (AND NEPHEW OF PRESIDENT BONGO) HAS DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE OFFICIAL GOG MISSION FOLLOW UP ON BOURGIN'S SEPTEMBER VISIT TO U.S. THIS MISSION WOULD BE HEADED BY PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL COUNSELOR FOR MEDICAL AFFAIRS OKIAS AND WOULD INCLUDE SEVERAL DOCTORS, HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS, REPRESENTATIVE OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND PERHAPS OTHERS. CURRENT PLAN WOULD BE FOR MISSION TO ARRIVE IN U.S. AROUND NOVEMBER 10. WHILE MISSION WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TALKING TO MOST INTERESTING PRIVATE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS VISITED IN SEPTEMBER BY BOURGIN, PRIMARY PURPOSE OF VISIT WOULD BE TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF FINANCING EQUIPMENT PURCHASES AND FOR TRAINING OF GABONESE IN HOSPITAL FIELD. THUS, MISSION WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE TO TALK TO USDOC, EXIM AND AID OFFICIALS.

2. COMMENT: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (LIBREVILLE A-086), GOG IN PROCESS OF EXPANDING MEDICAL FACILITIES BY BUILDING SEVERAL NEW HOSPITALS AND CLINICS IN LIBREVILLE AND
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OTHER AREAS OF COUNTRY. BOURGIN STATED THAT TOTAL

AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED BETWEEN NOW AND 1980 WILL BE CLOSE TO DOLS 35 MILLION. EMBASSY THUS BELIEVES PROPOSED MISSION OFFERS EXCELLENT CHANCE FOR U.S. TO OBTAIN LARGE PORTION OF THESE SALES. IN LIGHT OF GOG SENSITIVITIES, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF MISSION COULD RECEIVE SOME SORT OF OFFICIAL INVITATION FROM USG--PERHAPS USDOC--TO MAKE VISIT TO U.S. OBVIOUSLY, BOURGIN WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ISSUE WITH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE COMPANIES DURING HIS SEPTEMBER VISIT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: INDICATION BEFORE BOURGIN'S DEPARTURE WHETHER PROPOSED VISIT FEASIBLE AND LIKELIHOOD OF OFFICIAL INVITATION.
STEIGMAN

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NNN

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